

**North Carolina Department
of Transportation**

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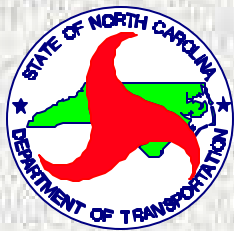
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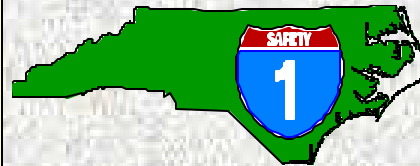
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North Carolina's Strategic Highway Safety Plan



North Carolina's Strategic Highway Safety Plan

MISSION

Establish highway safety goals and objectives and prioritize, implement and evaluate coordinated, multi-disciplinary policies and programs to reduce fatalities, injuries and economic losses related to crashes.

VISION

North Carolina has a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach to research, planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation and evaluation of transportation systems, which results in reduced fatalities, injuries and economic losses, related to crashes. In addition, there is a coordinated effort to address emerging safety issues.

STRATEGIES

Formally adopt a Strategic Highway Safety Plan for North Carolina.

Identify organizations for participation in North Carolina's SHSP.

Define roles and functions of the participating organizations.

Develop the SHSP process including implementation and management activities.

Establish deliverables including time frames and schedules.

Optimize limited resources for the SHSP.

OVERVIEW

While major strides and enhancements have been made in the areas of highway safety within North Carolina, there is still much room for improvement. In 2001, there were 217,794 reported traffic crashes that resulted in 1,530 persons killed and over 134,000 injuries on our highways. Although it will be impossible to prevent all traffic crashes, North Carolina must continue to seek plausible avenues by which to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes and injuries on our state’s highways. The time has come for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to develop and adopt a strategic highway safety plan that identifies current highway safety issues and facilitates appropriate strategies for alleviating the identified problems on our highways.

In 1997, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standing Committee for Highway Traffic Safety along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Transportation Research Board Committee on Transportation Safety Management assembled a group of national safety experts in driver, vehicle and highway issues from various organizations. The specific purpose of this group was to develop a strategic plan that would impact the nation’s present and predicted statistics on vehicle-related deaths and injuries. The end result was the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) which focuses on 22 key emphasis areas and contains strategies designed to improve each area’s major problem areas or to advance effective practices by means that are both cost-effective and acceptable to a significant majority of Americans.

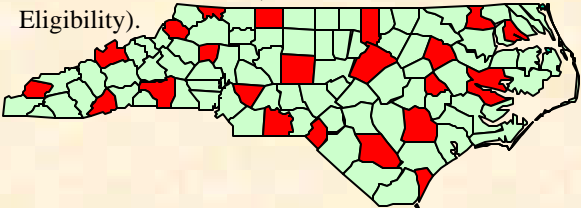
The AASHTO SHSP divides the 22 key emphasis areas into six major categories: Drivers, Special Users, Vehicles, Highways, Emergency Medical Services and Management. A review of the key emphasis areas shows that with a few exceptions, all of these are directly applicable to North

Carolina’s composite crash picture. Although some of the identified emphasis areas may be more prevalent issues in North Carolina than others and other safety issues may not be addressed in part or whole, the AASHTO SHSP correlates closely with most of North Carolina’s crash data.

Since the AASHTO SHSP and North Carolina’s needs mesh so closely, it is recommended that North Carolina formally adopt the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan and make modifications as appropriate.

WHY HAVE A SHSP?

- IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!
- The number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on North Carolina’s streets and highways continue to increase. North Carolina was 4th nationally in highway fatalities in 2000, with 1,563 fatalities.
- Vehicle miles of travel are greatly exceeding lane mile growth, facility capacity and maintenance capabilities resulting in highway safety issues.
- The FHWA, AASHTO, NHTSA and FMCSA have all established national goals to reduce the number of fatalities on our streets and highways. These goals also include reducing the number and severity of crashes.
- Highway safety for the traveling public, our highway workers, emergency responders and law enforcement personnel is a top priority for NCDOT.
- Transportation re-authorization proposals include requirements for a Strategic Highway Safety Plan that targets a “Significant and Sustainable” reduction in fatalities (AASHTO \$1 Billion Eligibility).



If current trends continue over the next ten (10) years, the number of motorist on North Carolina Highways that will be killed or injured in a motor vehicle crash will be equivalent to every man, woman and child in the 22 counties indicated in red on the above map.

AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan Key Emphasis Areas

- Part 1: Drivers**
- 1. Instituting Graduated Licensing for Young Drivers
 - 2. Ensuring Drivers are Licensed and Fully Competent
 - 3. Sustaining Proficiency in Older Drivers
 - 4. Curbing Aggressive Driving
 - 5. Reducing Impaired Driving
 - 6. Keeping Drivers Alert
 - 7. Increasing Driver Safety Awareness
 - 8. Increasing Seat Belt Usage and Improving Airbag Effectiveness
- Part 2: Special Users**
- 9. Making Walking and Street Crossing Easier
 - 10. Ensuring Safer Bicycle Travel
- Part 3: Vehicles**
- 11. Improving Motorcycle Safety and Increasing Motorcycle Awareness
 - 12. Making Truck Travel Safer
 - 13. Increasing Safety Enhancements in Vehicles
- Part 4: Highways**
- 14. Reducing Vehicle-Train Crashes
 - 15. Keeping Vehicles on the Roadway
 - 16. Minimizing the Consequences of Leaving the Road
 - 17. Improving the Design and Operation of Highway Intersections
 - 18. Reducing Head-On and Across Median Crashes
 - 19. Designing Safer Work Zones
- Part 5: Emergency Medical Services**
- 20. Enhancing Emergency Medical Capabilities to Increase Survivability
- Part 6: Management**
- 21. Improving Information and Decision Support Systems
 - 22. Creating More Effective Processes and Safety Management Systems

